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FLOWERING BEHAVIOR AND YIELDS OF SOME AVOCADO VARIETIES AT RIVERSIDE

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A large number of avocado varieties are under trial in the variety orchard of the University of California Citrus Experiment Station, 3½ miles east of Riverside. The oldest trees in the orchard are now 12 years of age.

During the years of 1951, 1952, and 1953, records were made of the date of first and last bloom, amount of bloom, and a rating of the crop produced.

FLOWERING BEHAVIOR AND YIELDS AT RIVERSIDE					
Year	Variety	Flowering Dates		Amt of Bloom	Yield Rating
		1st Open Bloom	Last Open Bloom		
1951	Duke	Feb. 3	Apr. 6	Heavy	Heavy
	Zutano	Mar. 27	May 28	Heavy	Heavy
	Irving	Apr. 8	May 7	Few	A few fruits
	Emerald	Apr. 8	May 25	Medium	Medium
	Halsted	Apr. 18	May 23	Light	Light
	Hass	Apr. 15	May 26	Medium	Light
	Ryan	Apr. 10	May 23	Heavy	A few fruits
	Clifton	Apr. 6	May 8	Medium	A few fruits
	Regina	Apr. 17	May 30	Medium	Light
	Fuerte	Mar. 27	May 25	Medium to Heavy	Medium for 6 trees, others a few fruits to light crop
1952	Duke	Mar. 26	Apr. 26	Heavy	Light
	Zutano	Apr. 4	May 20	Medium	Light
	Irving	Mar. 26	May 7	Heavy	Heavy

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	Emerald	Apr. 8	May 22	Heavy	Heavy
	Halsted	Apr. 12	May 22	Medium	Heavy
	Hass	Apr. 4	May 24	Medium	Medium
	Ryan	Apr. 3	May 16	Heavy	Heavy
	Clifton	Mar. 26	May 14	Heavy	Heavy
	Regina	Apr. 14	May 23	Medium	Heavy
	Fuerte	Apr. 2	May 16	Medium to Heavy	Heavy 3 trees, others a few fruits to light crop
1953	Duke	Feb. 15	Apr. 1	Heavy	Medium to Heavy
	Zutano	Mar. 9	May 18	Heavy	Heavy
	Irving	Feb. 24	Apr. 20	Heavy	A few fruits
	Emerald	Mar. 25	May 26	Medium	Medium
	Halsted	Mar. 24	May 20	Light to Medium	Light to Heavy
	Hass	Mar. 26	May 2	Light to None	Light to None
	Ryan	Mar. 26	May 18	Light	A few fruits
	Clifton	Mar. 9	May 5	Medium	Light crop
	Regina	Mar. 24	May 24	Light	None
	Fuerte	Mar. 9	May 10	Medium to Heavy	Medium 2 trees, others a few fruits to light crop

Note: Both bloom and yield are arbitrarily rated light, medium and heavy, and represent the best judgment of the person making the survey, and are approximate.

There are 26 bearing Fuerte trees representing 16 strains.

DISCUSSION

This table includes only a limited number of varieties.

The average flowering period for most varieties is approximately 6-8 weeks. In 1954, some varieties were in bloom as long as 12 weeks. The flowering period *is* considered to be from the time the first open flowers are seen until the last ones are present.

No attempt was made to separate varieties into early and late flowering classes. The Duke is an early flowering variety. The others listed show some variation in the date of the appearance of the first flowers. The weather has an important influence on flowering, but no attempt has been made to correlate temperatures, amount of fog and clouds, and wind, with the time of flowering or their effect on pollination. Bees are an important factor in obtaining adequate pollination. Weather affects bee activity.

In both 1951 and 1952, flowering dates for the same variety were quite similar. In 1953, they were generally much earlier than in the two previous years. There does not appear to be a consistent correlation in the amount of bloom with yield, except that a medium to heavy bloom is needed to produce a medium to heavy crop.

The MacArthur and Edranol (not listed in table), bloom early and heavily each year but produce only a few fruits. A heavy bloom does not necessarily result in a crop with some varieties. For example, the Campbell, Encanada, and Taft (not listed in table) bloom heavily some years, but produce few or no fruits those years or any other.

While the table includes but three years of yield data, records have been kept on yields for seven years on many varieties. The most promising producers of those mentioned in the table are Zutano, Duke, Emerald, Hass and Ryan. The Hass and Ryan are the only two summer varieties that show some promise, based on behavior for a period of years. A few others show considerable promise based on short-time yield records.

The Zutano, Duke, and Emerald have had the best yield record of the fall and winter varieties under test.

The yield performance of all of the Fuerte strains has been disappointing. The yield data given in the table for the Fuerte is typical for the seven years that production ratings have been made. No strain has shown superiority over the others.